

Committee Notes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID

September 12, 2013

Los Angeles Film School (6363 Sunset Blvd.)

Attendance: HED Committee Members Present: John Tronson, Chairperson; Derrick Malec and Chad Lewis
Not Present: Charlie Colletta and Carol Massie. SVBID Committee Members Present: Fred Rosenthal,
Chairperson; Fabio Conti and Katie Seymour. Not Present: Elizabeth McDonald and Anthony Bell. Liaisons:
Steve Seyler, Joe Salazar, Mike Harkins and Bill Farrar, Andrews International; Lieutenant Aloma and Deputy
Del Moore, LASD; Andre Quintero, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office; Steve Whiddon, Council District 13.
Not Present: LAPD. Staff: Kerry Morrison, and Joe Mariani Jr., Hollywood Property Owners Alliance.
Guests: Mike Guzik, Hollywood and Highland Complex.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairpersons Fred Rosenthal and John Tronson at 10:07 a.m.
- II. Public Comment: The group went around the room and introduced themselves.
- III. Meeting Notes: The committee approved their meeting notes from their August 8, 2013 meeting.
- IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International

1. Monthly Activity Report: Joe Salazar gave the committee the latest report which went through week 36 of this year. Salazar said arrests are down compared to this time last year and that it could be attributed to two reasons: One was with the movement of resources for the three month "observe and report" 10 p.m. pilot project (earlier this year) fewer officers were out during the day. Secondly, as calls for service have continued to increase officers are spending more time going from call to call. Salazar said the BID is still looking for ways to try and alleviate some of the call volume and encourage stakeholders to call LAPD for issues BID Security cannot handle. Salazar also reported that the Public Safety Officers (PSO) are doing a tremendous job on the Boulevard and have been an outstanding resource for homeless outreach. The PSOs have built a good rapport with several individuals in the area. Salazar also said that BID Security Director, Steve Seyler, participated in the LAPD's command post for this past Sunday's anti-war protest. The event was very peaceful and LAPD was appreciative for the BID being present. Salazar told the recent success story of "Serge," a long time homeless gentleman who with the help of the BID, LAPD, SMPD, PATH, DMH and our very own Kerry Morrison was able to be placed in a conservatorship after weeks of engagement. "Serge" was a chronic cause of calls for service to the BID patrol office, as he would often harass visitors and locals and run into moving traffic. Salazar called the placement a miracle and Morrison said the story is also a true testament to how the community coming together could force government agencies to recognize those chronic individuals in need of care. The group is looking to help others in Hollywood who have been identified. Finally, Salazar said the BID officers went through numerous trainings for the period and he and Seyler attended various community meetings.

B. Report from LAPD: Not present.

C. Report from LA Sheriff's Department: Lt. Sergio Aloma informed the committee that the locking of all Metro Red Line stations was completed on August 19. The crime rate along the Red Line corridor has continued to be relatively low. Officers are still participating in weekly operations and riding the lines during early morning and late night hours to ensure that patrons are following the laws.

a. Metro Bus Benches: Mariani asked the Sheriffs to clarify if the bus benches are Metro property. In recent weeks there has been some confusion as to whether or not local law enforcement agencies

can remove loitering individuals from the benches. Lt. Aloma said that the benches are city property and that local police should properly handle issues related to loitering, as there are specific reasons why someone can be removed.

D. Report from Neighborhood Prosecutor: Andre Quintero reported that he has now secured 13 stay away orders for the Hollywood and Highland area. Mr. Quintero reported that there are still some challenges with keeping individuals out of the area and ensuring that those who are prosecuted remain in custody. Mr. Quintero said he is doing his best to be vigilant in ensuring that the orders are upheld. Tronson asked if there was any way for the BID patrol to have access to the database of individuals so they too can make sure they are staying away from the area. Mr. Quintero said he could give them a copy and email them whenever new individuals are added.

E. Councilmember O'Farrell's Office: Steve Whiddon reported that the Community Impact team will be reconvening their meetings this month. The next scheduled meeting is for Wednesday, September 25. Whiddon also mentioned that the "No-Solicitation" ordinance has passed in Council and will be going to the Mayor's office for signature this week. Meanwhile, the Council office has been working with city entities to ensure that enforcement will occur on a consistent basis once the ordinance is passed. Whiddon said that if all goes as planned the ordinance would go into effect sometime in mid-October. Tronson suggested also having BID patrol spread the word to those individuals currently soliciting on the Boulevard.

V. New Business

A. 2014 Security Budget Discussion and 14 Week Nighttime Deployment Program: Joe Mariani recently was contacted by a detective from LAPD Hollywood Division, who expressed his desire to see the current LAPD camera system up and running on a regular basis. Mariani explained to him that with the system being nearly 10 years old, the vendor (Metro Video) is finding it hard to locate parts for the equipment as the manufacturer had discontinued some product lines. The detective asked what the BID could do to help with the system as he and his detectives found it very helpful in their investigations. Mariani shared with the board that a quote was obtained from Metro Video to upgrade the entire system at a cost of about \$11,100 per camera (around \$100,000 total). Currently, the two BIDs spend around \$38,000 a year on maintenance for the cameras.

At the last HPOA Board meeting a motion was passed which proposed allocating \$80,000 for a 14 week nighttime deployment effort, which had been requested by LAPD. The motion was approved. Chad Lewis asked why the motion was not first vetted at the Security committee as \$80,000 is a significant amount of money. Tronson apologized that he did not ensure the motion was brought to the committee as he missed the last meeting and the Captain had pressed the Hollywood board to consider it, he now recognized it should have been discussed first with the committee. Lewis said he thought a 14 week deployment was great, but based on the current budget it just did not seem sustainable. Lewis went on to say that as a proponent of the camera system he felt it may be better to spend the funds on a camera system upgrade. Fabio Conti said that he was ok with upgrading the cameras, so long as we could obtain a commitment from the new Captain and LAPD that they would be used again. Seyler said that he would do whatever the board desired, however he just needed a clear direction. Tronson thanked the committee for their input and said that he would try and follow up with the new area Captain, Captain Zarcone, to see what he felt would be the best use of funds for assisting the LAPD in keeping the BID safe. Tronson will also share the committee's feelings with the HPOA at their upcoming October meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Hollywood and Cahuenga Intersection Update: Mariani reported that a MOU was recently signed by the property owner representative which ensured that the owner would replace the benches at a cost to the owner, when the BID decided they needed to be replaced.

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B. Meeting with Hollywood Apartment Management Representatives: Mariani shared with the Committee that Besley and Morrison had recently met with several apartment managers in the two BIDs. Seyler also attended the meeting and said it was a productive discussion. The group is going to try and formalize their meetings so they can continue to work on common issues together.

D. Homeless Outreach Update: See “Serge” story under Andrews Monthly Report.

E. Community Impact Team: Mariani again reminded the group that the next Community Impact Meeting would take place on Wednesday, September 25. There has been no update given on the Valet Ordinance, but the staff said they will follow up with the Council office.

VII. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 10 a.m. at the Los Angeles Film School (6363 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90028).

VIII. Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Committee Chairs Fred Rosenthal and John Tronson at 11:37 p.m.